

**CITY OF NEWPORT
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2017
REGULAR MEETING**

The November 8, 2017 regular meeting of the Newport Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order by Chairperson Jo Ann Bailey at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers at Newport City Hall.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Joann Bailey (chair), Beverly Bartl, Fred Leimbeck, Maria Bonilla, and Brandon Leyde.

Also present: Kevin Chapdelaine (city council liaison) and Robert Vogel (staff); Bryan and Cole Williams (owners of F. A. Marko Historic Riverfront).

Secretary's report

The draft minutes of the September 20, 2017 regular meeting were approved as mailed.

CLG grants update

Consultant Vogel provided a brief report on the progress of the mid-20th century historic resources survey, which is being financed in part with a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant administered by the Minnesota state historic preservation office. The project will identify and collect information on the historical and architectural values of Newport buildings constructed between 1935 and 1975.

Annual report

Consultant Vogel distributed copies of the city's annual report for historic preservation activities carried out during the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2017. The annual report is required for cities that participate in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program.

Red Rock

There was discussion of the resolution passed by the Newport City Council on October 19, 2017 (Resolution No. 2017-52) in support of repatriating the historic Red Rock to the tract of land between the Mississippi River and Cedar Lane that is being acquired by the city for conservancy purposes. Consultant Vogel briefed the HPC on recent discussions between the city and the Mendota band of the Mdewakon Dakota regarding stewardship of Eyah Shah. Commission members were invited to attend an "open house" at the Newport United Methodist Church on November 19 where the Mendota band planned to display its 18-panel history display.

Comprehensive plan

The updated heritage preservation element of the city's comprehensive plan will be available in draft form in December. The HPC will hold a workshop on the plan as part of the annual meeting scheduled for January 10, 2018.

F. A. Marko Riverfront

Cole and Bryan Williams, owners of the F. A. Marko Riverfront, a designated heritage landmark located at 121 Tenth Street, appeared before the HPC to discuss their plans to rehabilitate the property and the potential adverse effects resulting from the vacation of Ninth Street between Second Avenue and the Mississippi River. When the property was registered as a heritage landmark in 2004, the site boundaries encompassed the entire landscaped area, including the stone wall that extended downstream from the Marko property into the platted right-of-way of Ninth Street. Some city officials have expressed interest in using the vacated street to provide riverfront access to owners of the former Johnson property at the end of Seventh Street. Consultant Vogel advised the commission that any development activities within the Mill Pond locality, including the vacated Ninth Street right of way, would require HPC review; any construction work or other improvements that would impact the Marko riverfront heritage landmark would also require a certificate of appropriateness from the HPC.

Annual meeting

Members discussed the agenda for the HPC's annual meeting, to be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

City council

Councilman Chapdelaine reported on recent city council actions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant